



State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access

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**\*\*Upcoming Changes to Suboxone® Film Prior Authorization Requirements\*\***

Dear Medicaid Provider,

In an effort to reduce provider burden, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is pleased to announce the implementation of an automated prior authorization (PA) for patients prescribed Suboxone® film, DVHA's preferred Suboxone formulation. Effective **9/9/16**, the pharmacy processing system will begin checking the member's record for the required medical diagnosis on the claim's date of service. It will then calculate the daily dose based on the quantity and days' supply submitted. If a diagnosis of opiate dependency is found, and the maximum daily dose does not exceed 16mg, the claim will pay without the need for a manual PA submission. Nothing will have to be pre-approved or done by the prescriber other than writing the prescription itself.

It is important to note that this process is dependent on access to medical claims, and there can often be a delay in retrieving the most up-to-date information. Therefore, newly diagnosed patients may be subject to manual PA submission. However, claims for existing members continuing on the preferred film formulation with no change in dose ( $\leq 16\text{mg}$ ), or those titrating down in dose should process without the need for another prior authorization. *There will be no change to the current PA requirements for non-preferred formulations, including Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets, Buprenorphine tablets, Zubsolv®, or Bunavail®.*

**Patients will continue to be required to select a "Pharmacy Home" for all prescriptions, and prescribers must have a DATA-2000 waiver ID ("X-DEA license"). Suboxone® will not be approved for alleviation of pain.**

These changes are in response to feedback received from providers. We hope this will have a positive impact on your practice and your patients. Questions regarding these changes should be directed to the GHS/Change Healthcare Pharmacy Call Center at 844-679-5363 or 844-679-5362. Thank you for your continued support of Vermont Medicaid's clinical pharmacy programs.